

UNCLAS 6F

*** BEGIN MESSAGE 68 ***
UDN=W(25195)

SERIAL=PA2311174489

CLASS=UNCLAS 6F

UNCLAS 6F

SERIAL: PA2311174489

COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

SUBJ: TAKE 2 OF 2 -- JESUIT LEADER ON KILLING OF PRIESTS

REF: PA2311173889 PANAMA CITY ACAN SPANISH 231540///TO DO THAT."

TEXT:

((TEXT)) WHEN ASKED HOW THEY WILL CARRY OUT THAT STRUGGLE, HE SAID "BY ALWAYS SAYING THE TRUTH, ABOVE ALL THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS COUNTRY, WHICH NEEDS MUCH CLARIFICATION."

HE ADDED: "ANY COUNTRY FACING A CIVIL WAR IS EXPOSED TO MANY EQUIVOCATIONS, LIES, AND POLITICAL GAMES. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE INSTITUTIONS THAT WILL TRY TO SAY THE TRUTH FROM AN INDEPENDENT POSITION. THAT IS WHAT OUR FELLOW PRIESTS WERE DOING. I BELIEVE THAT IS WHY THEY WERE KILLED."

THE FIVE SPANISH AND ONE SALVADORAN JESUIT WHO WERE KILLED WERE DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (UCA). UCA DIRECTOR IGNACIO ELLACURIA, A WELL-KNOWN INTERNATIONAL PERSONALITY, WAS AMONG THE VICTIMS.

TOJEIRA SAID THAT THE MURDERS HAVE BEEN "A VERY HARD BLOW" FOR THE JESUIT ORDER, BECAUSE "IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO REPLACE THOSE PRIESTS, WHO HAD BEEN WORKING TOGETHER WITH GREAT EFFECTIVENESS FOR 18 TO 20 YEARS."

"IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT ALSO TO CREATE AS STRONG A LEADERSHIP AS THE ONE THAT EXISTED, AS WELL AS MAINTAINING THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE THAT THE JESUITS HAD ACQUIRED. IT HAS BEEN A HARD BLOW, INDEED. HOWEVER, THE UCA CAN BE THE SAME AGAIN IN 2 OR 3 YEARS," HE ADDED.

COMMENTING ON THE RECENT ARREST AND EXPULSION FROM EL SALVADOR OF FRANCISCO ANDUREZA, A SPANISH PRIEST OF THE DOMINICAN ORDER, TOJEIRA SAID THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A "WITCH-HUNT" AGAINST PRIESTS IN EL SALVADOR. "WE DO NOT FEEL MORE THREATENED THAN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION. MORE THAN WITCH-HUNTING, THERE IS A CLIMATE OF FEAR AND ALARM AMONG MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WHO ACT WITHOUT USING GOOD JUDGMENT, WITHOUT DIFFERENTIATING HUMANITARIAN WORK FROM SUPPORT FOR THE GUERRILLAS," TOJEIRA STRESSED.

AFTER THE PRIESTS WERE MURDERED, TWO JESUITS PRIESTS LEFT EL SALVADOR. TOJEIRA SAID THAT HE HAS RECOMMENDED OTHER PRIESTS TO DO THE SAME, "SO THAT THEY CAN RETURN WITH MORE ENERGY."

TOJEIRA ADMITTED THAT SOME SALVADORAN SECTORS BELIEVE THAT SOME PRIESTS HAVE LINKS WITH THE GUERRILLAS. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS THE CAUSE OF THE MURDERS. IN HIS OPINION, THEY WERE NOT KILLED BECAUSE THEY WERE SEEN AS OPPOSITION POLITICAL LEADERS, "BUT BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE FELT UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE TRUTH THEY SAID."

(ENDALL) 111540 SE/ /EB RLES2311.15E 23/1745Z NOV

BT

68874

NNNN

NNN

UNCLAS 6F

Approved for Release
Date

DEC 1993

48